This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An optical instrument comprising:
   - at least one binocular viewing port defining at least one binocular beam path ~~which has~~ having two channels;
   - an imaging module[[,]];
   - a display module[[,]];
   - a ~~plurality of beam splitters~~ first beam splitter for reflecting a portion of the beam path from one channel out onto the imaging module and alternatively for reflecting external image data from the display module into the one channel toward the viewing port, and a second beam splitter for reflecting a portion of the beam path from the other channel out onto the imaging module and alternatively for reflecting ~~into one channel data or images that have been made available on the display module~~ external image data from the display module into the other channel toward the viewing port, wherein the imaging module and the display module are arranged in stationary fashion with respect to the optical instrument; and
   - ~~at least one~~ a first optical switcher ~~provided for the imaging module and the display module~~ that optically connects the ~~respective~~ imaging module to ~~the beam splitter in the one or the other channel~~ either of the first beam splitter and the second beam splitter, and a second optical switcher that optically connects the display module to either of the first beam splitter and the second beam splitter.

2. (currently amended) The optical instrument as defined in Claim 1, wherein each of the first and second optical switchers ~~are~~ includes at least one rotatable ~~prisms~~ prism.

3. (currently amended) The optical instrument as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first and second optical switchers ~~are~~ each include slidable prisms.

4. (original) The optical instrument as defined in Claim 2, wherein the prisms are rhomboid prisms.

5. (original) The optical instrument as defined in Claim 3, wherein the prisms are rhomboid prisms.

6. (original) The optical instrument as defined in Claim 1, wherein the imaging module and the display module are optically connected to different channels of the binocular beam path.

7. (currently amended) The optical instrument as defined in Claim 6, wherein the first and second optical switchers ~~of the imaging module and of the display module~~ are coupled to one another in such a way that the imaging module and the display module cannot be connected simultaneously to the same channel.

8. (currently amended) The optical instrument as defined in Claim 7, wherein the first and second optical switchers ~~of the imaging module and of the display module, configured as~~ are prisms~~, are arranged on the same~~ coupled to one another by a shaft.

9. (currently amended) The optical instrument as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first and second beam splitters are beam splitter prisms or beam splitter cubes.

10. (original) The optical instrument as defined in Claim 1, wherein the optical instrument is a microscope having a binocular viewing port.

11. (original) The optical instrument as defined in Claim 1, wherein the optical instrument is a stereo microscope having a binocular viewing port.

12. (canceled)